

Community Scrutiny Committee – WORK PROGRAMME (as at 03/12/25)

Date of Meeting	Item	Lead Officer	Witnesses	Agenda Item Duration
February 2026				
26 February 2026	Stenson Square Gardens – Presentation of Designs Post public Engagement and Approval to Fund and Submit Planning Application(s) Stenson Square Gardens update including details of proposed next stages and associated costs.	Paul Wheatley, Head of Economic Regeneration and Property	-	30 minutes
26 February 2026	Playing Pitches, Built Facilities (Sports and Community), and Open Spaces Strategies To provide an overview and to invite comments for consideration by Cabinet when corporately adopting the strategies and approving their integration as part of the Local Plan	Paul Sanders, Head of Community Services	-	20 minutes
26 February 2026	Zero Litter and Love Your Neighbourhood Campaign Update To review the performance of the Love Your Neighbourhood campaign against a range of indicators, as requested by the Committee when it the campaign was presented to them in April 2025.	Paul Sanders, Head of Community Services	-	30 minutes
April 2026				
None scheduled				

Date of Meeting	Item	Lead Officer	Witness	Agenda Item Duration
June 2026				
25 June 2026	Scrutiny Annual Report To present the work of the two scrutiny committees for the 2025/26 civic year.	James Arnold, Strategic Director of Place	-	20 minutes

Work requests considered by the Scrutiny Work Programming Group

Work Request	Status/Progress	Committee date to be considered (provisional)
National Forest Line	<p>Further to Community Scrutiny on 7th December, officers have continued to engage with Leicestershire County Council and Network Rail and timescales have been confirmed for the Outline Business Case as follow:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Final outline business case from Network Rail to be submitted to Department of Transport early February and will be reviewed by the Restore Your Railways Programme Board (Late February) - Final OBC to be presented to further DfT and Network Rail Board throughout March/April 2024 - Anticipated submitted to Treasury for sign off in early May. If approval granted will move onto next stage – Final Business Case <p>NWL (with LCC) will seek to arrange a further briefing/meeting with Network Rail following Outline Business Case approval and enable further engagement for Scrutiny.</p> <p><u>Update September 2024 (from DfT)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Chancellor announced the cancellation of the RYR programme in her statement on 29 July 2024. - The RYR projects will now come to an orderly close and no further funding will be provided through the programme. - Where projects are not currently live, no new work will be started. For projects which have development or design work in progress, DfT are considering the best way to bring these projects to a close. 	-

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - For Ivanhoe, this will mean that no new work will start. - The Chancellor also announced that the Transport Secretary will be undertaking a review of the Department's investment portfolio, including individual RYR projects. - DfT Capital Review underway and is considering alignment of individual infrastructure projects with government's priorities of growth, housing, jobs and value for money. - The review is being progressed in two phases – the first will consider RYR projects plus other Network North proposals, the second will have a larger scope. The outputs will help to inform a wider Spending Review in 2025 however some announcements could be made before then. <p><u>November 2025</u> No further update.</p>	
S106 agreements and the transfer of open space and sustainable urban drainage systems	<p>A scrutiny topic suggestion form was considered by the Scrutiny Work Programming Group on June 2025.</p> <p>The Head of Planning was invited to the meeting to assist with the discussion and help scope the proposed scrutiny topic. It was recommended that a first step would be to consult Parish Councils and understand the level of interest and also clarify current approach being followed by the Council which is set out in the current local plan.</p> <p>Agreed that an information paper be prepared by Planning to set out the current position and enable further discussion by the Work Programming Group and to decide on further action.</p>	-
Matters reserved for future consideration		
Resident Involvement Process	At the Scrutiny Work Programming Group meeting in June 2025, during discussion a request was made for a report to committee in relation to resident involvement. It was acknowledged that changes were being made to the resident involvement processes, and a report for committee would be scheduled in due course.	

Scoping work on Warehouse Design	At the Scrutiny Work Programming Group meeting in December 2024, a request was made to examine the design of warehouses around the district, given the significant number of them within the district and with further growth projected. It was agreed that scoping work for further discussion will be carried out after the submission of the Local Plan in 2026.	TBC
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Principles and Criteria used for Assessing Items Put Forward

Identify Issues for consideration by Scrutiny

- Consulting with members of Scrutiny Committees, senior officers, Cabinet members – horizon scanning on policy development
- Looking at the corporate priorities, Council Delivery Plan and Cabinet Forward plan – identify key issues/topics for investigation/inquiry
- Considering events and decisions in the Council's calendar which could require an input/consultation via scrutiny – eg budget setting, CDP development
- Considering requests from members – eg via another forum or scoping report submitted
- Evaluating the Council's performance – eg quarterly reports, end of year reports, reviewing success of a particular scheme or initiative
- Reviewing any follow up work required after previous scrutiny work

Prioritise the potential list of scrutiny topics based on factors including

- the resources required to deliver it (from members, offices and financially)
- the value and level of impact which could be achieved
- link to the council's priorities
- whether it is a regular recurring item which requires consideration before Cabinet/Council approval
- consideration of the guidance for selecting scrutiny topics

Topics are suitable for Scrutiny when	Topics are not suitable for Scrutiny when
Scrutiny could have an impact and add value	The issue is already being addressed elsewhere and change is imminent
The topic is of high local importance and reflects the concerns of local people	The topic would be better addressed elsewhere (and will be referred there)
The resources are available that would be required to conduct the review – staff and budget	Scrutiny involvement would have limited or no impact on outcomes
It avoids duplication of work elsewhere	The topic would be sub-judice or prejudicial to the councils interests
The issues is one that the committee can realistically influence	The topic is too broad to make a review realistic
The issue is related to an area where the council or one of its partners is not performing well	New legislation or guidance relating to the topic is expected in the next year